

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (previously presented): An image processing apparatus having an optical area in which a plurality of elements are disposed in a matrix having rows and columns, comprising:

light reception means for receiving light introduced into said elements of said optical area and photoelectrically converting the light;

a plurality of operating units, each of which operates a signal obtained for a corresponding one of said elements by the photoelectric conversion by said light reception means in accordance with a predetermined rule, the operation of said operating units being based on at least one of a clear signal and a transfer signal;

a plurality of outputting units, each for receiving a result of the operation of a corresponding one of said operating units and outputting the result of the operation for each of said corresponding one of said elements; and

timing adjustment means for adjusting a timing at which the result of the operation is output for each of said plurality of elements from said outputting units, said timing adjustment means using a control signal other than the clear signal or the transfer signal in the timing adjustment.

Claim 2 (previously presented): An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said operating units include storage means for successively storing a plurality of signals at different timings obtained by the photoelectric conversion.

Claim 3 (previously presented): An image processing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said operating units execute a comparison operation for a combination of a plurality of ones of the signals stored in said storage means.

Claim 4 (previously presented): An image processing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the comparison operation includes an arithmetic operation for determining a maximum value or a minimum value of the signal.

Claim 5 (previously presented): An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said outputting units output results of an arithmetic operation for each of the rows or the columns of said corresponding elements at a timing adjusted by said timing adjustment means.

Claim 6-12 (cancelled)

Claim 13 (previously presented): An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said operating units perform an arithmetic operation.

Claim 14 (previously presented): An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the operating units store and operate a plurality of photoelectrically converted signals received by one of said elements at predetermined timing intervals.

Claim 15 (previously presented): An image processing apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the operating units store and operate the photoelectrically converted signals in the order in which the signals are received.